

# LUGE

One of the fastest events at the Winter Olympics is sliding down the hill on a special sled called a “luge.” The mice are bored with the skiing this winter in Maine, so they want to try this sport. Can you build them a sled? Let’s see how far can it go!

**Challenge:** Build a sled for a small animal and then test how far it and a rider will slide down a ramp and across the floor.

**Set-Up:** The appraisers will need to provide some kind of ramp with a runout area to test the “luge” sled. This does not have to be “standard” as long as all teams solving this challenge at the same time use the same “hill.” How about a sheet of cardboard leaning against a chair? Or a vinyl tablecloth or plastic bag taped between a table and the floor?

**Time:** Part One: You will have 5 minutes to create a fast “luge” sled that can carry a small stuffed animal. You may test your construction on the ramp during this Part.

Part Two: You will have 1 minute to place the “mouse” on your sled and send both of them sliding down the ramp and across the floor. You may not push the sled again after starting their slide at the top of the ramp. Scoring will be based on the distance the “luge” sled travels, even if the animal falls off earlier.

**Materials:** 4 craft sticks  
one square foot of aluminum foil  
2 sheets of plain paper  
6 mailing labels  
2 paper cups  
2 straws  
scissors (may not be included in the solution)  
one small stuffed animal: the “mouse” (may not be altered)  
first aid kit (for the “mouse”)

**Scoring:** up to 25 points for technical innovation of the sled  
1 point for each inch the sled travels  
up to 20 points for positive team work